

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms (Excused), Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Excused)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, and Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works,

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Stephenson

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Hardy to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1.1.5. Reading/Approval of Closed Session, Public Session, Regular Work Session and Special Session Meeting Minutes:

- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Hardy to approve the Regular Work Session minutes for Monday, February 7, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Public Session minutes for Monday, February 14, 2010. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Hardy to approve the Closed Session minutes for Friday, February 18, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Special Session minutes for Friday, February 18, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Special Session Sessions minutes for Monday, February 28, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. Dwayne Mingo, Public Affairs & Constituents Services Liaison from Councilwoman Toles Office. Mr. Mingo stated that Councilwoman Toles was unable to attend the meeting due to a Board of Education meeting. He stated that Councilwoman Toles thanked Council President Gatling for attending the Community Meeting. He stated that he is the public and constituent service representative. If any residents had any questions or concerns, please see him after the meeting.

2.2. Seat Pleasant Ethics Board Swearing In-Mayor Grant swore in the five member board for the Seat Pleasant Ethics.

3. LEGISLATION

- Ordinance O-11-07 Amendment of FY2010-2011 Budget was introduced by the City Council on Monday, February 14, 2011 and the first reading was declared. The second reading was declared on Monday, March 14, 2011. It was motion by Councilmember Porter and second by Councilmember Hardy to approve Ordinance O-11-07. The motion carried.
- FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- Resolution R-11-10 Approval of Eastern Avenue Apartments Development Project. It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Resolution R-11-10. The motion carried.
- FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

4. REPORTS

4.1. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Grant

- Support on Maryland Legislation Community Maryland House Bill 1188 and Senate bill 822. The support will be for senior citizens
- He is encouraging the council to support a city coalition with neighboring cities. We need to find ways to pool our resources together. We must be forward in our thinking and working with surrounding cities. If it means to collaborate our refuse services.
- We are in the midst of our budget season and it will be submitted on time April 1, 2011
- He is requesting the council support to complete the Seat Pleasant Veterans Memorial marker. We have the plans and former Councilwoman Camille Exum has provided \$30,000 and we need additional \$30,000
- We will celebrate 80 years this year and Seat Pleasant Day will be special. We will induct the four people who were apart of the first induction.
- Seat Pleasant has submitted a bond bill request for Public Works in the amount of \$500,000. The bond bill was read on Saturday, March 12, 2011
- Seat Pleasant spends ten (10) percent of its budget on new equipment for Public Works.
- In the last five years the City spent fifty thousand (\$50,000) on energy consumption on the Public Works building alone.
- He will be supporting the following bills the tax credit for cities HB1114 and SB 436, Prince George's County Health Council HB1091, Maryland Communities for a lifetime Act HB1188 and SB 822
- Mayor Grant ended with a prayer by W.B. Dubois

4.2. Council President Report:

- Council President Gatling stated that her report is on the table. If anyone has any questions, please see her after the Public Session.

4.3. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department-

- . Marcus Jones, President of Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.
- He reported that we had 707 calls for the month of February
- We successfully completed a boot drive and all donations were from Seat Pleasant residents
- We had a major tractor trailer accident in February and the department sent out two trucks to assist with the situation.
- We are now tracking calls for service specifically within the city limits. Day-light savings change your clock and your batteries.

- We had nineteen (19) volunteers respond back to the station to pace all apparatus in service. It is important to keep our apparatus in front line condition.

4.4. City Administrator Report-

- Mr. Ashton reported that he will be giving one report.
- He would like to give an update on Green Program Phase II. We have received 15 applications. We declined four (4) applications because they were outside of city limits
- The tax form HT60-Tax Credit form. The form can be downloaded from www.sdat.state.md.us 1-800-944-7403 to request them to send you a form. Please call him or City Hall if you need some assistance.
- He credited the Mayor and Council on the legislation that was submitted on the tax credit to get you a return on your investment. The property is your most investment and you can look into getting some of your money back.

4.5.Code Enforcement Officer

- Ms. Andrews was absent from the Public Session on Monday, March 14, 2011. The Code Enforcement Officer report was submitted in writing.

4.6. Finance Department

- Mr. Ashton reported that his Finance report was submitted in writing.

4.7. Police Department

- Chief Prue was absent from the Public Session on Monday, March 14, 2011. The Police Department report was submitted in writing.

4.8. Public Works Department

- Mr. Thompson read the written report submitted on Street Repair PY36 from the Community Development Block Grant. He stated that we are approximately \$148, 414 less. We will be working the following streets, 71st Court, Greig Court and Field Street and speed humps on G Street
- Surplus Vehicles were disposed of at an auction on Saturday, March 12, 2011.
- The last piece of snow equipment has arrived. He personally thanked the Mayor and City Council for supporting the Department and upgrading the equipment. The Department has a new attitude. They did not forget the problems that were faced last year.
- He stated that he was not going to give up on the communication system. Mayor Grant stated that the Council was given erroneous information on the Radios. The purchase of radios from Radio Shack isn't sufficient enough for the needs. The equipment from Radio Shack is for children.
- The Public Works Department has the money in their budget to convert the radios from the Police Department for their usage.

- Councilwoman Gatling stated that the information that was reported back to the Mayor was fabricated. Councilwoman Gatling thanked Mr. Thompson and his department for their hard work and due diligence. She has received a lot of phone calls thanking them for cleaning the streets. She has never seen Birchleaf look so clean
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that when the scheduled is developed she would like to collaborate with Mr. Thompson to have the cars removed from the streets.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- Marilyn J. Thomas, 6404 Capon Street. She has received a code violation that stated that she has mold on the side of house and stated that she would have 72 hours to have the item corrected. She wanted to know how come it wasn't reported as mold is a health issue. She needs to see some data stating that there is mold on her house. She received the notice on Friday, March 11, 2011. She stated that she could correct the issue in the summer.
- Mr. James Wright, 500 70th Street, He would like to extend the Mayor and Council and former member Ms. Cobb and staff of the City a good evening. He wanted to commend the Mayor for two things. He stated that everywhere he goes in the county everyone states that how great Mayor Grant is and the good work he is doing. The next meeting for the Citizens Association will be held on tomorrow, Tuesday, March 15, 2011. He wanted to make an announcement that the Citizens Association is a part of the Citizens Federation. He was appointed as the Vice President of the organization. He stated the Wal-Mart will be an anchor store. He is very active in the effort of seeing that workers in the area will receive good solid wages and benefits. He feels that when the store comes that it would have an effect on the Safeway and IGA grocery stores. They would follow the lead of Mayor Grant and Mayor James to ensure that residents of the Prince Georges County receive some benefits.
- Damon Sutton, Thanked Mayor Grant for the e-mails and communications that he receives from him. He stated that the sidewalk directly in front of his home is cracking. He stated that the home faces the back of the Auto Zone on MLK and the store alarm goes off every day in the morning. He stated that it has happened two-three times between 7:00a.m.-7:30a.m.
- James Epperson, Sr.-Mr. Epperson stated he happy to hear of the street repairs in Seat Pleasant. However, he would like to know what has happen with his street. He knows that the Mayor can attest to the concerns of his street. He hopes and prays that they would come up 68th Street to make the repairs. He stated that the people at 515 69th Street are putting trash in the back yard upside of the house. They have dogs that tear up their trash and tried to get into his

yard. He was not pleased with the response he received from the Code Enforcement Officer and he told him so. He said they put trash up and down the alley. This has happen for at least three (3) weeks. He stated that on Friday, March 11, 2011 and another young man came in with another pit bull. They are training the dogs to make the vicious. He has contacted the dog pound and the Code Enforcement Officer requested him to take pictures with his cell phone and send them. He told the Code Enforcement to get up off his lazy butt and do it himself. He doesn't want to take up a resident in the county cell because of the situation. He said gentlemen on the side of Eads Street had three (3) pit bulls. He would like the area of Seat Pleasant sent to him. He stated that they had cleaned the area at one time. He has requested that the Police Department begin to knock on doors and request that they show some credentials. He stated that he has everyone trash on his yards. He has stated the dogs are using his fence for their business.

- Wayne Langley, Mr. Langley stated that he has one issue. He stated that he sees a lot of people employed by Seat Pleasant and Prince George's County of Hispanic decent. He doesn't pay taxes in an all black County for the others to be giving the jobs.

• **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

6.1. None

7. NEW BUSINESS:


7.1. None

8. ANNOUNCEMENT

8.1. 24th District Night, Monday, March 21, 2011 Lowe House Office Building, Annapolis, MD at 5:30p.m. **RESIDENTS MUST RSVP WITH MS. ADDIE ASAP.**

ADJOURN- The meeting adjourned at 8:17p.m.

Submitted by,


Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk